

12 February 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 12 February 1979

The Director chaired the meeting. []

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In response to Mr. Carlucci's question about his membership on a White House SALT verification task force, Hitz said that he has been CIA's representative, has attended one meeting, and there have been no follow-up meetings. The Director explained that CIA's role on the task force is to determine what it can release without revealing intelligence sources and methods. He confirmed that Hitz, not Mr. Carlucci, should continue as our representative. Mr. Carlucci asked EA/DCI [] to call and advise whoever was appropriate. []

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The Director said that he noticed an item in the OLC Notes about NPIC providing briefing boards of satellite photography to the SSCI for the latter's monitoring study. The Director suggested that C/SALT Support Staff [] become involved in this activity so that he could coordinate the Director's presentation to Congress with what is being presented to the staff. Dirks noted that originally the SSCI requested 113 briefing boards, but the request has since been scaled down considerably. The Director said that he would probably use five or six for his Congressional presentation. Shackley suggested that this support to the SSCI should also be coordinated with the paper being prepared on declassifying satellite photography. []

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Noting that there would be an NFIB meeting tomorrow, the Director asked and received clarification regarding which NIE would be discussed. He added that over the weekend he had made comments on NIE 11/3-8 and suggested that Bowie ask NIO Stoertz if these changes should be surfaced at tomorrow's NFIB meeting. Mr. Carlucci said that he had some questions about some of the wording in NIE 11/10-78 that will be discussed tomorrow, and Bowie said that he would arrange a discussion about the same. (Action: NFAC) []

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The Director reported that there will be an SCC meeting on Iran at 1430 today. (Mr. Carlucci left the meeting at this point.) The Director highlighted decisions reached at yesterday's SCC meeting on Iran, including sending 50 Marines to the Azores to stand by to augment the Marine contingent at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and sending six helicopters to Insurlik to shuttle Americans out of Iran. He was very disturbed that these decisions have already leaked and appeared in the press. He

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noted that Defense and State had an extended discussion during yesterday's meeting to determine what response should be made to press inquiries and the decisions apparently did not reach the task forces already at work on this topic. [redacted]

The attendees at yesterday's meeting debated between Plan 1, which consists of the Iranian military reaching an accommodation with new Prime Minister Bazargan, and Plan 3, a military takeover. The latter was determined to be impossible. [redacted]

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The Director said that our primary concern at this point was the safety of our people in Iran. McMahon advised that the terminal where Americans were waiting to leave the country was closed and they were put under "protective custody" by the police. [redacted]

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[redacted] Bowie said that Khomeini hopes to prevent action against foreigners but it is unclear whether he can maintain control of the situation. The Director noted disturbing reports that the situation was out of Khomeini and Bazargan's control. Bowie suggested that Bazargan may try to reach some accommodation with the Iranian military to gain control of the country. The Director said that Ambassador Sullivan has ordered all Americans in Iran to remain in their homes. (Mr. Carlucci rejoined the meeting at this point). Bowie said some homes of Americans have been searched but nobody has been hurt. The [redacted]

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his view that delay in recognizing new governments seldom serves U.S. policy goals, Mr. Carlucci suggested that NFAC carefully monitor who has recognized the new Iranian government. (Action: S&T, CT, NFAC) [redacted]

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The Director advised that as a result of work overseen by Lehman, he and Bowie would be making a new monthly trends presentation designed to fill the gap between [redacted] long-range NIE publications [redacted]

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[redacted] Bowie mentioned that he has forwarded a package for this purpose to the Director that needs to be streamlined to seven or eight items. [redacted]

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Alluding to an item in Saturday's Executive Summary about the Chinese leaders' concern about the lack of Chinese military combat experience, the Director asked NFAC to watch for any other indications that such concern may be an inhibiting factor on any Chinese decision to move against Vietnam. Bowie noted that NFAC was updating the Alert Memorandum on the PRC/Vietnam/Kampuchea situation. (Action: NFAC) [redacted]

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The Director informed Dirks that the Department of State has said that the authenticity of the tape alleged to be the Shah's last words to his troops has not yet been determined. Dirks said that he had forwarded a memorandum to the Director suggesting that the tape is not legitimate. []

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In response to the Director's question of what would be discussed at tomorrow's SCC meeting on charter legislation, Lapham said that topics included the Department of Justice paper asking for guidance on collecting positive intelligence against Americans, which Lapham said had been decided upon at the last SCC meeting. Implementing other decisions raised at the last meeting is also to be discussed. Lapham opined that the Justice paper goes further than agreed to at the last SCC meeting on this issue and the Agency should try to restore the decisions that were made at that time. In response to Bowie's question, Lapham said that he thought it would be permissible to collect and report intelligence on the official in the new Iranian government who is technically a U.S. citizen. []

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The Director called attention to a disturbing item in Saturday's Executive Summary about a possible shake-up in the Saudi government. []

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The Director told Mr. Carlucci he would like to have a better organized Community approach to the problem of replacing [] sites. He said he would like to form an NFIB task force headed by [] to look into this problem. Mr. Carlucci concurred in doing so. The Director asked Shackley to begin writing terms of reference for such a task force to ensure that all alternative possibilities to the sites are examined. (Action: CT) []

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[REDACTED]

McMahon highlighted a report that Yugoslav President Tito refused requests from Soviet President Brezhnev to establish a naval base in the Adriatic and to permit the Soviets to overfly Yugoslavia. [REDACTED]

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Taylor mentioned that he had assumed that there were more extensive military plans for evacuating Americans from Iran than are now apparent. The Director said that a suggestion to put the 82nd Airborne on semi-alert was declined for fear it would put Americans in greater jeopardy. Mr. Carlucci said that any U.S. military presence in a foreign country under such circumstances usually serves only to inflame the situation. The Director said that one regiment of the 82nd could possibly be put on alert without a leak to the press. He proceeded to highlight the difficulties of alternatives for moving Marines into the Mediterranean area and noted the need for Turkish cooperation for anything to succeed. He and Mr. Carlucci agreed that there is very little that the U.S. military can do in a foreign country except perhaps to gain control of an airport to facilitate evacuation of Americans. [REDACTED]

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Hetu advised that the President has scheduled a televised news conference for 1100 hours today. [REDACTED]

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Hitz informed the Director that his meeting with OMB on the CIA Authorization Bill was disappointing. He said that he would discuss the reserve release replenishment and the refusal to include salary increases in the bill with the Comptroller. He added that he will be forwarding letters for DCI signature appealing the deletion of education benefits and "death in duty" benefits from the bill. Mr. Carlucci noted that the latter would have a strong impact on the morale of overseas personnel. Later in the meeting in response to Taylor's question if OMB opposed the Authorization Bill itself, Hitz said that it was opposed only to the provisions mentioned. [REDACTED]

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Hitz advised that his staff would be working with congressional committees regarding their interpretation of the Department of Justice memorandum on the legal effect of classified annexes. Noting Congressman Murphy's recent public statements about charter legislation and the HPSCI's recent report on Iran, the Director said the issue of whether or not the DCI should be involved in covert action seems to be developing. He suggested that McMahon monitor the situation. McMahon mentioned that Congressman Aspin has scheduled a hearing on covert action on 1 March. (Action: DDO)

[REDACTED]

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Mr. Carlucci asked Hetu to obtain a tape of the program "The Advocates" in which a Massachusetts legislator did an excellent job defending the Agency position against Morton Halperin and others. (Action: PA)

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Noting that he would be forwarding a memorandum on this topic, Lapham said that he needed preliminary guidance on the Director's position on the procedures governing the SCC review of sensitive collection operations. Tracing the developments in this area to date, Lapham repeated his remarks at the 9 February staff meeting about the status of the draft procedures to date. He noted that currently the DCI has total authority to determine which operations should be submitted to Dr. Brzezinski for review. Dr. Brzezinski then decides which of those submitted to him should be forwarded to the SCC for review. The latest Department of Justice draft procedures indicates that all operations should be forwarded for review to Dr. Brzezinski and the SCC unless the President rules otherwise. The Director said that he favored having the SCC become involved during the annual review exercise as long as the operations discussed were not extremely sensitive. Lapham said that he preferred to stay as close as possible to the Agency's original proposal. In his view, the SCC seems to be trying to obtain the review function that it was not granted in the Executive Order.

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